

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim ~~416~~, wherein an aperture formed by an inner periphery of the cylindrically shaped, tubular body of the proximal portion is closed by the end plate.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim ~~416~~, wherein:

the end plate includes a ~~first~~third screw hole;

the cylindrically shaped, tubular body of the proximal portion includes a corresponding ~~second~~fourth screw hole; and

the ~~first~~third and the ~~second~~fourth screw holes are aligned so as to direct a another locking screw inserted in the ~~first~~third screw hole through the ~~second~~fourth screw hole and into a fragment of the fractured bone.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim ~~416~~, wherein the end plate includes a ~~first~~third screw hole, the cylindrically shaped, tubular body of the proximal portion includes a corresponding ~~second~~fourth screw hole, and

further comprising;

a another locking screw extending from the ~~first~~ third screw hole, through the ~~second~~ fourth screw hole, and into a fragment of the fractured bone.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim 4, wherein:

the other locking screw extends into one of a greater trochanter and a lesser trochanter.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim 4, wherein the other locking screw has a hollow core with threads formed on the outer periphery of the hollow core, and further comprising:

a solid cylindrical screw insert disposed within the hollow core and engaging the threads.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim ~~4~~ 16, wherein:

the end plate includes a screw hole configured to engage a another locking screw and direct the other locking screw into a fragment of the fractured bone; and

with the intramedullary nail fully inserted into the fractured bone cavity, the screw hole in the end plate is visible to the naked eye of the surgeon.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim 7,

wherein with the intramedullary nail fully inserted into the fractured bone cavity, the screw hole in the end plate is configured such that the other locking screw can be engaged with the screw hole and directed into the fragment of the fractured bone, without a jig.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim 4-14, wherein:

the cylindrically shaped, tubular body has a first diameter near the first end of the proximal portion of the nail and a second diameter, smaller than the first diameter, near the second end of the proximal portion of the nail.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim 4-14, wherein:

the cylindrically shaped, tubular body has a first diameter near the first end of the proximal portion of the nail; and

the cylindrically shaped, tubular shaft portion has a second diameter, smaller than the first diameter.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim 4-14, wherein the proximal portion of the nail is attachable to and removable from the cylindrically shaped, tubular shaft portion of the nail.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim 11,

wherein;

the cylindrically shaped, tubular body includes a first threaded portion near the second end of the proximal portion of the nail;

the cylindrically shaped, tubular shaft portion includes a second threaded portion;
and

the proximal portion of the nail is attached to the cylindrically shaped, tubular shaft portion of the nail by engagement of the first and second threaded portions.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An intramedullary nail ~~according to claim 13 for insertion into a cavity formed in a fractured bone, wherein~~comprising:

a proximal portion of the nail having (i) a first end, (ii) a second end opposite the first end, (iii) a cylindrically shaped, tubular body extending between the first and the second ends and having a curved longitudinal axis, and (iv) an end plate disposed at the first end of the proximal portion of the nail and attached to the cylindrically shaped, tubular body;

a distal portion of the nail; and

a cylindrically shaped, tubular shaft portion of the nail extending between the second end of the proximal portion of the nail and the distal portion of the nail;

wherein the cylindrically shaped, tubular shaft portion of the nail has a longitudinal axis;

wherein the longitudinal axis of the cylindrically shaped, tubular body of the

proximal portion of the nail is curved in ~~the~~a first plane at an angle in a range of 20° to 25° from the longitudinal axis of the cylindrically shaped, tubular shaft portion of the nail; and

wherein the longitudinal axis of the cylindrically shaped, tubular body of the proximal portion of the nail is curved in ~~the~~a second plane at an angle in a range of 5° to 7° from the longitudinal axis of the cylindrically shaped, tubular shaft portion of the nail; wherein the second plane intersects the first plane.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An intramedullary nail for insertion into a cavity formed in a fractured bone according to claim 15, wherein the cylindrically shaped, tubular body of the distal portion of the nail includes a first screw hole and a corresponding second screw hole, and further comprising:

a proximal portion of the nail having (i) a first end, (ii) a second end opposite the first end, (iii) a cylindrically shaped, tubular body extending between the first and the second ends and having a curved longitudinal axis, and (iv) an end plate disposed at the first end of the proximal portion of the nail and attached to the cylindrically shaped, tubular body;

a distal portion of the nail having a cylindrically shaped, tubular body of a first diameter extending from the cylindrically shaped, tubular shaft portion of the nail and including a first screw hole and a corresponding second screw hole;

a cylindrically shaped, tubular shaft portion of the nail, having a second diameter

smaller than the first diameter, extending between the second end of the proximal portion of the nail and the distal portion of the nail; and

a locking screw ~~extending for insertion~~ from the first screw hole, through the second screw hole, and into a fragment of the fractured bone, the locking screw having a head portion and a shaft portion, with the shaft portion having a diameter of no less than 7 mm.

Claim 17 (Original) The intramedullary nail according to claim 16, wherein the locking screw has a hollow core with threads formed on the outer periphery of the hollow core, and further comprising:

a solid screw insert disposed within the hollow core and engaging the threads.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail according to claim ~~45~~16, wherein one of the ~~cylindrically shaped, tubular body includes a first and the second~~ screw ~~hole~~holes is configured to engage a ~~the~~ locking screw and direct the locking screw into a fragment of the fractured bone; and

with the intramedullary nail fully inserted into the fractured bone cavity, the one screw hole is configured such that the locking screw can be engaged with the one screw hole and directed into a fragment of the fractured bone, without a jig.